

Russell L. Ott

District 93 - Calhoun-Lexington-
Orangeburg Counties
135 Ott Farm Trail
St. Matthews, SC 29135
(803) 707-3463 (cell)



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

530-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6945

RussellOtt@schouse.gov

Committee:

Medical, Military, Public
and Municipal Affairs

June 17, 2014

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
455 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Clyburn:

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to write to lend my voice in support of FCC Chairman Wheeler's compromise proposal on open Internet regulations. I believe the Chairman's proposal strikes the right balance between protecting consumer interests and promoting the policies that will encourage continued growth of Internet technologies and broadband networks.

I have watched the debate unfold with increasing concern as some special interest groups have advanced the radical notion of reclassifying broadband connectivity as a Title II common-carrier service. I believe this is a dangerous course of action to take and if successful could hinder the pace of innovation and technology deployment. South Carolinians and all Americans have benefited from in recent years.

As you well know, consumers in South Carolina have many wireline and wireless service providers to choose from these days that provide them high-speed access to everything the Internet has to offer. According to the FCC's own National Broadband Map, 94% of South Carolina's population has access to wireline download speeds of greater than 3Mbps and 98% of the population has access to wireless download at comparable speeds. What's more, the overwhelming majority of the public has the ability to choose from two or more wireline Internet service providers or four or more wireless Internet service providers. The plethora of options we enjoy today is undoubtedly a byproduct of your work to expand broadband availability to more corners of the country and we thank you for that.

However, I fear this progress is in jeopardy if broadband networks are subject to ill-suited public utility type regulations. Subjecting broadband networks to decades-old regulations designed for a now defunct telephone monopoly is impractical and unintelligent. Imposing burdensome regulations and unnecessary requirements on broadband networks and content providers would present these industries with a myriad of new bureaucratic hurdles they will have to navigate in

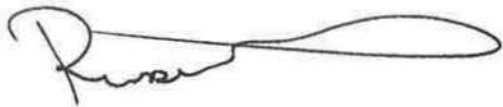
order to meet their consumers' needs. Undoubtedly, this will slow the pace of innovation, as private investment in new technological breakthroughs will have to be weighed against the pitfalls of complying with government burdens in this arena.

For those reasons, I believe Chairman Wheeler's proposal to ensure an open Internet while maintaining a careful regulatory posture toward broadband networks is the best way forward. His proposal would enshrine important policies that protect against discrimination or blocking of lawful online content, which is the crux of net neutrality arguments. Moreover, it provides the necessary flexibility to Internet service providers and content providers to collaborate with one another to deliver better services to consumers. Moreover, most importantly, the Chairman's proposal strengthens the FCC's authority to ensure those partnerships are in consumers' best interests.

Therefore, as you continue your work on the open Internet proceedings, I hope you will support Chairman Wheeler's consensus proposal and reject calls for drastic Title II reclassification.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell L. Ott", with a long, horizontal, looping flourish extending to the right.

Russell L. Ott